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REMARKS***Status of the Application***

Claims 1–33 are the claims of record of the application. Claims 1–33 have been rejected.

Specification Objections and Amendment to the Specification

In paragraph 1 of the office action, the Examiner objects to the term "unused bits," considering needlessly confusing or elliptical. Similarly in the specification, this term was objected to. The Applicants have amended the specification to make clear that what is meant is "reserved bit locations."

The Examiner also objected to paragraphs [0004], [0017] and [0028] and suggested amendments that would make the meaning clearer. Applicants have followed the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants have also added the co-pending application serial number to paragraph [0050] as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicants have amended the specification to overcome the Examiner's objection to the specification. No new matter is being added.

Amendment to the Claims:

Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC 112, and to include limitations of cancelled parent claims in remaining ones.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 112 Second Paragraph (Indefiniteness)

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1–33 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the examiner has asserted that the term unused bits renders the claims indefinite. The Examiner provided the Applicants with detailed analysis of the claims, including suggestions.

Applicants thank the examiner for the detailed analysis and suggestions. Applicants have amended the claims to remove the offending terms.

The rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph are thus believed overcome.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103

In paragraph 6 of the office action, claims 14 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,987,033 to Boer et al. In paragraph 8

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of the office action, claims 15, 17, 20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the same U.S. Patent 5,987,033.

Purely in order to speed up prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 14, 15, 17, 20, 23, and 24. The limitations of these claims have been included in the remaining dependent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 9 and 10 of the office action, the Examiner states that claims 1–13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25–33 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, and further, in the case of claims originally dependent on claims rejected under 35 USC § 102 or 35 USC § 103, if the claims were also amended to include all of the limitations of the cancelled base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have so amended the remaining claims, including, when including limitations of the cancelled base claim and any intervening claims, doing so avoiding the offending terms mentioned in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Thus, the remaining claims (as amended) are the claims that the Examiner has stated are allowable. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Claims 1–13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25–33 are the claims after amendment. The Applicants believe all of Examiner's rejections have been overcome with respect to all remaining claims (as amended). The remaining claims are in a form deemed allowable by the examiner. Allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments that would advance the prosecution and allowance of this application, an email message to the undersigned at dov@inventek.com, or a telephone call to the undersigned at +1-510-547-3378 is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan. 19, 2006

Date


Dov Rosenfeld, Reg. No. 38687

Address for correspondence:

Dov Rosenfeld
5507 College Avenue, Suite 2,
Oakland, CA 94618
Tel. 510-547-3378
Fax: +1-510-291-2985
Email: dov@inventek.com